

COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT
(New July 6, 1992; printed 01-04)

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Sec. 27-1. Purpose. (Amend 2/99)

The purpose of this Chapter is to develop, promote, and coordinate voluntary efforts to improve the appearance of the commercial, industrial, public and residential areas of the Town. To that end, there is established a Community Enhancement Commission to act as the focal point for such efforts, and to advise the Town Council and appropriate Town departments on matters relating to community appearance and beautification. It is intended that functions assigned to the commission be performed by members of the commission; particularly the interface with other town organizations, the selection of properties for recognition and the identification of problem situations. The initiative for commission activities, decisions and plans should emanate from the members; and it is anticipated that commission members actively participate in projects undertaken by the commission.

Sec. 27-2. Membership; Appointment, Numbers, Qualification, Terms, Removal. (Amended 2/99)

The Commission shall consist of seven (7) members, all of whom shall be appointed by the Town Council. In addition, the Director of Parks & Recreation shall serve as an ex-officio member of the Commission. Except for the Director of Parks & Recreation, all appointees shall be either residents of the Town or representatives of businesses or professions located in and licensed by the Town.

1. One Member shall be selected from a list of nominees submitted by the Vienna Regional Chamber of Commerce. Should the Chamber of Commerce fail to submit a list of nominees from which the Council may choose, this member shall be chosen from the business and professional community at large.
2. One member shall be selected from among businesses and professional practitioners licensed by the Town; other than those represented by members selected pursuant to paragraph 1 above.
3. Four members shall be selected from among members of the residents of the Town.
 - A. None of the four shall have any affiliation with any of the business or professional organizations represented by the selections made in paragraph 1 and 2 above.
 - B. One resident member shall be selected from each for the four quadrants of the Town.
 - C. In appointing the four citizen members, the Town Council members shall give consideration to nominations received from civic associations and to persons expressing a willingness to serve.
4. One member shall be a student resident of the Town attending James Madison High School.

The term of all members except the student member shall be for two years. The term of the student member shall be for one year and shall commence on June 1st of each year. The student member will develop and coordinate student activities in association with the commission, and no later than May 15th of each year will coordinate with James Madison High School Officials for a student nominee for the next year.

Vacancies occurring on the Commission for reasons other than the expiration of terms shall be filled by the Town Council for the unexpired term. Members shall be eligible for reappointment.

Members may be reimbursed for actual expenses incident to performance of their duties and in addition shall be compensated in the amount of Twenty-Five Dollars (\$25.00) per month. The Chairman shall, in addition to such compensation as a member, receive the sum of Fifteen Dollars (\$15.00) per month.

Members may be removed from the Commission by a majority vote of the Town Council.

Sec. 27-3 Organization, Rules, Meetings, Records

The Commission shall, at a meeting to be held each year in the month of June, elect from their number a Chairman and a Vice Chairman to serve for the ensuing year.

The Commission shall adopt rules for the transaction of business, and shall keep records of its discussions, findings and recommendations, all of which shall be open to public inspection. Meetings of the Commission shall be held monthly and as called by the Chairman or at the request of a majority of the Commission. A quorum shall consist of at least four (4) members of the commission, and all decisions of the commissions shall be by majority vote. Meetings of the Commission shall be open to the public.

Sec. 27-4 Powers and Duties (Amend 2/99)

The Commission shall have the following powers and duties:

1. To initiate, promote and assist in the implementation of general community beautification.
2. To promote, cooperate with and coordinate the activities of individuals, agencies, organizations and groups, public or private, whose plans, activities and programs bear on appearance of the Town.
3. To prepare both general and specific proposals for improving the appearance of the Town. Such proposals shall include suggested goals and standards for the aesthetic enhancement of the Town or any part thereof, including public ways and areas, open spaces and public and private buildings and projects.
 - A. Not later than June 15th of each year the Chairman of the Commission shall submit to the Town Council a report of activities accomplished the past fiscal year.
 - B. Not later than September 15th of each year, the Chairman of the Commission shall submit to the Town Council a specific plan of activities for the year.

4. To participate in appropriate ways in the implementation of such proposals. This participation may include:
 - A. Making studies of the visual assets and liabilities of the community, including surveys and inventories of and appropriate nature, with particular attention to the appearance of properties along the major streets and thoroughfares of the Town.
 - B. Developing and supervising programs of Town and citizen cooperation to protect and upgrade such properties, consisting of but not limited to:
 - (1.) Contracts and discussions with citizen groups, business groups and individuals to encourage cooperative improvement of the Town's appearance. The commission as whole, or subcommittee thereof, will meet at a minimum of once each year at least three (3) of the service organizations in the Town, (e.g. Lions, Rotary, Optimist, Chamber of Commerce, etc.), and at least three (3) of the active community civic associations.
 - (2.) Maintain a list of projects as suitable suggestions for community groups to undertake.
 - (3.) Sponsorship of one Vienna Beautification Day each year in coordination with local organizations, school and civic groups.
 - (4.) Promotions and competitions to recognize and reward those business establishments and citizens who make noteworthy improvements in the appearance of their properties.
 - (5.) Provision of appropriate awards to owners of both residential and commercial properties in each of the four quadrants of the Town who show noteworthy improvement to the appearance of their properties or consistently maintain their property at exceptional levels. To accomplish that end, nominations for awards shall be accepted and solicited from individuals, businesses and associates within the Town.
 - (6.) Cooperative efforts involving the landscaping and/or screening of setback areas and parking lots of existing commercial and industrial developments through a program of planting agreements and easements.

(7.) Identification of situations which adversely impact the overall appearance of the community and recommend appropriate remedial measures.

C. Serving as a general advisor to the Town Council, the Board of Architectural Review and the Planning Commission in all matters relating to the appearance of the Town. In that capacity, the Commission may recommend new ordinances, amendments to existing ordinances and other actions it deems appropriate. It may also recommend expenditures in connection with its activities.

D. Maintain contact with national and state organizations devoted to community appearance (e.g. Scenic America, Scenic Virginia, Tree City, USA, etc.). Maintain an awareness and familiarity with available awards, grants, donations, and support resources from private, Commonwealth and Federal government sources furthering environmental beautification, and after approval of the Town Council, applying for, soliciting and obtaining the same for use in enhancing the appearance of the Town of Vienna.